بِسۡمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

Biographical Sketch of *al-Shaykh* Muḥammad b. ʻAli al-Ithyūbī

By Abū al-Ḥasan Mālik al-Akhḍar

He is the *Muḥaddith* Muḥammad b. *al-Shaykh* ʻAli b. Ādam b. Mūsā al-Wallawī, al-Ithyūbī (حفظه الله).

His birth and upbringing:

The *Shaykh* was born in Ethiopia in the year 1365 Hijrī. He began memorization of the Qur'ān at the instruction of his father. Later, his father sent him to sit with *al-Shaykh* Muḥammad b. Qayh, and he completed his reading of the Qur'ān with him. After this, he began to study a number of works in the various Islāmic sciences.

His teachers:

The *Shaykh's* teachers include:

1. His father, *al-Shaykh* ʻAlī b. Ādam b. Mūsā al-Wallawī, al-Ithyūbī: *Shaykh* Muḥammad studied books of creed, the *Ḥanafī* school of jurisprudence, *Usūl al-Fiqh*, most of *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, etc. with his father, who granted him both oral and written *ijāzahs*.
2. *Al-Shaykh* Muḥammad b. Sa'd b. *Shaykh* ʻAlī al-Darrī: *Shaykh* Muḥammad sat with him for close to three years, studying part of the *Ṣaḥīḥayn*, grammar, morphology, *Usūl al-Fiqh*, etc.
3. Muḥammad b. Zayn b. Muḥammad al-Ithyūbī, al-Dānī: The *Shaykh* read most of *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* with al-Nawawī's explanation, the beginning of *Sunan al-Bayhaqī*, *Tafsīr al-Qur'ān al-Karīm*, *Tadrīb al-Rāwī*, etc. upon him.
4. *Al-Muḥaddith*, *al-Shaykh* Muḥammad b. Rāfi' b. Baṣrī: The *Shaykh* read *Jāmi' al-Tirmidhī* and part of *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* upon him and also studied [*Sunan*] *Abū Dāwūd*, al-Nasā'ī and B. Mājah with him. He granted *Shaykh* Muḥammad *ijāzah* to transmit all of his chains of narration.

His writings:

Shaykh Muḥammad al-Ithyūbī is from the most prolific authors of this era. He has penned voluminous works in almost every science of Islamic scholarship. The following is a short sampling of his many works:

1. The explication of *Sunan al-Nasā'ī*, entitled *Dhākhirah al-ʻUqba fī Sharḥ al-Mujtabā* in forty-two volumes: Our *Shaykh*, the *Muḥaddith* of the lands of Yemen, Muqbil b. Hādī al-Wādi'ī said about this book, "[This explication] is written in the manner of *Fatḥ al-Bārī* by al-Ḥāfiẓ B. Ḥajr. One has confidence in many of the *Shaykh's* positions due to them being in

agreement with the evidences. I advise the students of knowledge to be diligent in acquiring this tremendous work, for not every *Muḥaddith* in this era has the ability to produce the likes of this explication."

2. The explication of the *Muqaddimah* of *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, entitled *Qurrah 'Ayn al-Muḥtāj fī Sharḥ Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim b. al-Ḥajjāj* in two volumes
3. The explication of *Sunan B. Mājah* entitled *Mashāriq al-Anwār al-Wahhajah wa Matali' al-Asrār al-Bahhajah fī Sharḥ Sunan b. Mājah* in four volumes [incomplete]
4. The explication of *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* entitled *al-Baḥr al-Muḥīṭ al-Thajāj fī Sharḥ Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim b. al-Ḥajjāj* of which 28 volumes have been published.

His teaching posts:

Since his arrival in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the *Shaykh* has been an instructor at *Dār al-Ḥadīth al-Khayriyyah* in Makkah. He has also taught a number of lessons in Masjid al-Abrār in the area of Makkah known as al-Nakasah; these lessons include the explanation of *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, *Sunan al-Nasā'ī*, *Tafsīr B. Kathīr*, etc.

Praise for *Shaykh* Muḥammad al-Ithyūbī:

We have already mentioned the great praise of our *Shaykh* Muqbil b. Hādī al-Wādi'ī (رَحِمَهُ ٱللَّهُ) regarding Shaykh Muḥammad and his explication of al-Nasā'ī: "[This explication] is written in the manner of *Fatḥ al-Bārī* by al-Ḥāfiẓ B. Ḥajr. One has confidence in many of the *Shaykh's* positions due to them being in agreement with the evidences. I advise the students of knowledge to be diligent in acquiring this tremendous work, for not every *Muḥaddith* in this era has the ability to produce the likes of this explication."[1]

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[1] *Benefits from the Introduction to Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* (pp. 17-20)